

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for determining a ~~velocity independent~~ characteristic parameter of an analyte independent of the flow velocity of the analyte, wherein the characteristic parameter of the analyte is capable of being influenced by or dependent on the velocity of the analyte, said method comprising:
- (a) providing a means for transporting a fluid medium comprising the analyte from a first position to a second position of a fluid flow channel of a fluidic device;
 - (b) measuring the characteristic parameter of the analyte within the fluid flow channel at a plurality of locations along the fluid flow channel in between the first and the second position; and
 - (c) determining the velocity component of the analyte and ~~the velocity independent~~ characteristic parameter of the analyte independent of the flow velocity of the analyte by using the measured characteristic parameters of step (b) and normalizing the measurement by substantially eliminating the velocity component of the measurement.

Claim 2. (canceled) The method of Claim 1, wherein said method comprises velocity independent flow cytometry.

Claim 3. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said fluidic device is a microfluidic device.

Claim 4. (original) The method of Claim 3, wherein said means for transporting a fluid medium comprises a peristaltic pump or electroosmosis.

Claim 5. (canceled) The method of Claim 3, wherein the substantially all analytes passes through each detection zone individually.

Claim 6. (canceled) The method of Claim 5, wherein said step (b) for measuring the characteristic parameter of the analyte comprises a detector comprising a laser, a laser beam guiding device, and a means for detecting laser induced fluorescence.

Claim 7. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said laser beam guiding device is an acousto-optic modulator.

Claim 8. (canceled) The method of Claim 5, wherein said step (c) of determining the velocity independent characteristic parameter of the analyte comprises:

- (i) comparing signals obtained from the plurality of locations along the fluid flow channel in step (b);

- (ii) determining a time difference by calculating the time it takes for a particular analyte to pass from a first detection position to a second detection position; and
- (iii) determining the velocity independent characteristic parameter using the time difference.

Claim 9. (canceled) The method of Claim 8, wherein said step (iii) of determining velocity independent characteristic parameter comprises averaging the signal of the particle from the first and the second detection zone and normalizing the average signal using the time difference.

Claim 10. (original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the analyte is a cell, an oligonucleotide or an organic compound.

Claim 11. (original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the analyte is a cell and said method is used for cell sorting.

Claim 12. (original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the analyte is an oligonucleotide and said method is used determine the number of nucleotides in the oligonucleotide.

Claim 13. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein said step of determining number of nucleotides in the oligonucleotide comprises:

- attaching a fluorescent molecule to the oligonucleotide to produce a modified oligonucleotide prior to measuring velocity independent characteristic parameter of the modified

oligonucleotide, wherein said characteristic parameter is
integrated fluorescent peak area of said modified
oligonucleotide; and

- determining the number of nucleotides in the oligonucleotide
by comparing the velocity independent integrated fluorescence
peak area of the modified oligonucleotide with a velocity
independent fluorescence peak area of a standard
oligonucleotide, wherein the velocity independent fluorescence
peak area of the standard oligonucleotide has been calibrated to
the number of nucleotides present the standard oligonucleotide.

Claims 14-18 (canceled)